

issues - Justice

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Helping Law Enforcement

Louise is cosponsoring a bill to help local law enforcement agencies buy bulletproof vests for officers. The legislation would extend the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

Louise also cosponsored the comprehensive Crime Bill that put more police officers on the streets. The bill created Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants, which have provided local law enforcement agencies in Western New York with funding for 95 police officers.

Protecting Our Children

Louise cosponsored legislation to create a national AMBER alert network. AMBER alert communication networks help law enforcement officers quickly to inform broadcast media of critical details when a child is kidnapped and considered endangered. Radio and TV stations then use the Emergency Alert System to interrupt their programming with the emergency information.

Louise introduced The Protection From Sexual Predators Act.

One provision of bill required sex offenders who are released from prison to register their new addresses with law

enforcement authorities; the addresses would then be entered in a nationwide computerized database. This system was adopted as part of the comprehensive crime bill, signed into law in 1994.

The second provision made repeat rape or sexual assault a federal crime with the penalty of imprisonment without parole. The provision was overwhelmingly adopted 411-4.

Violence Against Women

Louise coauthored the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) enacted into law in 1994. VAWA combats sexual abuse and violence against women, especially domestic violence. It also works to eliminate gender bias in the judicial system.

Louise is also a cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act. This bill would restore federal civil liabilities for gender-motivated crimes and allows the Attorney General to bring legal actions to eliminate discriminatory practices in the investigation or prosecution of gender-based crimes.

Louise is cosponsoring legislation to provide grants to state and local governments for the testing and analysis of DNA evidence in sexual assault cases. This legislation would help state and local governments more quickly test DNA evidence and catch up on the backlog of DNA waiting to be tested.

Protecting Your Civil Liberties

Louise believes that efforts to protect the nation from terrorism are vital, but that constitutional civil liberties need protection too. She is cosponsoring legislation to protect legal protections for libraries and bookstores.

The USA Patriot Act, passed days after the terrible events of September 11, 2001, allows federal law enforcement officers to conduct "sneak and peek" searches without telling anyone. Louise is cosponsoring legislation to place limits on these searches.

Gun Safety

Louise has been a long time supporter of improved gun safety. She is leading the fight in Congress against the powerful gun lobby to pass proposals that would require non-licensed gun sellers to conduct criminal background checks on buyers at gun shows, restrict access to guns for juveniles, and mandate child safety features on handguns.

Louise cosponsored and successfully fought for enactment of the Brady Handgun Purchase Waiting Period and Assault Weapon Ban laws. Since 1995, this bill prevented over 840,000 fugitives, stalkers and felons from buying handguns.

Louise is a cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the ban on assault weapons.

Louise is cosponsoring a bill to keep guns out of the hands of people who committed violent crimes as juveniles.

Louise is working to close the gun show loophole. She is a cosponsor of a bill that would to help stop criminals from getting around the Brady laws by buying guns at gun shows.

Quality of Life and Fairness

Louise cosponsored the REDUCE Spam Act of 2003, which would decrease the amount of unwanted and misleading spam e-mail messages.

Louise is a cosponsor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, a bill that enhances penalties for willfully causing bodily injury to any person because of race, color, religion, or national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

Louise is cosponsoring attempts to extend family and medical leave protections so that grandparents and siblings can take time off of work to care for ill family members.

Louise is a cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Helpful Links

The Department of Justice Response Center helps state and local agencies apply for federal grants from the Department of Justice, such as COPS grants.

